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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/479,363	01/07/2000	Timothy James Graser	RO999-122	2954

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EXAMINER

LY, ANH

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2172

DATE MAILED: 09/24/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/479,363

Applicant(s)

GRASER, TIMOTHY JAMES

Examiner

Anh Ly

Art Unit

2172

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 July 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed on 07/29/2002 with respect to claims 1-19 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.
2. Claims 1-19 are pending in this application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 5,437,025 issued to Bale et al. (hereinafter Bale) in view of US Patent No. 6,343,287 issued to Kumar et al. (herein Kumar).

With respect to claim 1, Bale discloses at least one processor (col. 3, lines 37-60); a memory coupled to the at least one processor (col. 6, lines 27-43, col. 13, lines 62-67 and col. 14, lines 1-6); class configuration data comprising a plurality of entries residing in the memory (col. 8, lines 1-61 and col. 13, lines 28-61; col. 11, lines 4-56); and an object oriented class replacement mechanism residing in the memory and executed by the at least one processor that generates an instance of a selected class to access the appropriate entry in the class configuration data (col. 1, lines 60-67, col. 2, lines 1-49 and col. 7, lines 10-67).

Bale does not explicitly indicate, "each class configuration entry including a key-value pair, wherein the key includes information relating to a selected processing context and the value includes configuration data for a class in the selected processing context and by using a key that includes context information."

However, Kumar discloses key-value pair and a selected processing context as claimed (col. 7, lines 4-18, col. 14, lines 28-42 and col. 19, lines 22-34; col. 7, lines 1-3, col. 16, lines 20-30, col. 17, lines 64-67 and col. 18, lines 1-18).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Bale with the teachings of Kumar so as to have an apparatus for providing context-based class replacement in an object-oriented system database. This combination would provide the system having the features in object-oriented computing environment for the replacement of classes at any location in the hierarchy while preserving the inheritance of each class in the

hierarchy (Bale – col. 2, lines 3-49) in the object-oriented programming framework environment.

With respect to claims 2-3, Bale discloses an apparatus as discussed in claim 1.

Bale does not explicitly indicate, “wherein the key comprises context information appended to a class identifier; and wherein the class identifier comprises a class token that comprises a text string.”

However, Kumar discloses class identifier and string as claimed (abstract, col. 5, lines 10-32; col. 7, lines 54-57, col. 14, lines 28-42, and col. 19, lines 10-67).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Bale with the teachings of Kumar so as to have an apparatus for providing context-based class replacement in an object-oriented system database because the combination would provide the system having the features in object-oriented computing environment for the replacement of classes at any location in the hierarchy while preserving the inheritance of each class in the hierarchy (Bale – col. 2, lines 3-49) in the object-oriented programming framework environment.

With respect to claim 4, Bale discloses a factory object that generates an instance of the selected class by accessing the appropriate entry in the class configuration data using the key (col. 8, lines 1-61 and col. 13, lines 28-61; col. 7, lines 10-67 and col. 8, lines 1-61).

With respect to claim 5, Bale discloses an apparatus for providing context class as discussed in claim 1.

Bale does not explicitly indicate, "the context information."

However, Kumar discloses the context as claimed (col. 7, lines 4-18, col. 14, lines 28-42 and col. 19, lines 22-34).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Bale with the teachings of Kumar so as to have an apparatus for providing context-based class replacement in an object-oriented system database because the combination would provide the system having the features in object-oriented computing environment for the replacement of classes at any location in the hierarchy while preserving the inheritance of each class in the hierarchy (Bale – col. 2, lines 3-49) in the object-oriented programming framework environment.

With respect to claim 6, Bale discloses retrieving configuration data corresponding to the class and instantiating the instance of class using the retrieved configuration data (abstract, col. 2, lines 62-67, col. 3, lines 1-9, col. 7, lines 10-67, col. 8, lines 1-61, col. 13, lines 28-67, col. 14, lines 1-15 and see figs. 4, 5 and 7; abstract, col. 3, lines 12-67, col. 7, lines 12-67 and col. 8, lines 1-61).

Bale does not explicitly indicate, "a selected processing context using a corresponding key that includes information relating to the selected processing context."

However, Kumar discloses the context and key claimed (col. 7, lines 4-18, col. 14, lines 28-42 and col. 19, lines 22-34; abstract and col. 5, lines 10-32).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Bale with the teachings of

Art Unit: 2172

Kumar so as to have an apparatus for providing context-based class replacement in an object-oriented system database because the combination would provide the system having the features in object-oriented computing environment for the replacement of classes at any location in the hierarchy while preserving the inheritance of each class in the hierarchy (Bale – col. 2, lines 3-49) in the object-oriented programming framework environment.

With respect to claims 7-11, Bale discloses a method as discussed in claim 6 and also Bale disclose storing the configuration data (abstract, col. 2, lines 62-67, col. 3, lines 1-9, col. 7, lines 10-67, col. 8, lines 1-61, col. 13, lines 28-67, col. 14, lines 1-15 and see figs. 4, 5 and 7).

Bale does not explicitly indicate, “the corresponding key comprises the step of generating a key from a class identifier and from the context information; wherein the key comprises context information appended to a class identifier; wherein the class identifier comprises a class token that comprises a text string; and generating the key from a class identifier and from the context information.”

However, Kumar discloses the context as claimed (col. 7, lines 4-18, col. 14, lines 28-42 and col. 19, lines 22-34); class identifier and string as claimed (abstract, col. 5, lines 10-32; col. 7, lines 54-57, col. 14, lines 28-42, and col. 19, lines 10-67).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Bale with the teachings of Kumar so as to have an apparatus for providing context-based class replacement in an object-oriented system database because the combination would provide the system

having the features in object-oriented computing environment for the replacement of classes at any location in the hierarchy while preserving the inheritance of each class in the hierarchy (Bale – col. 2, lines 3-49) in the object-oriented programming framework environment.

With respect to claim 12, Bale discloses storing configuration data for the existing class; replacing the configuration data for the existing class with configuration data for the replacement class; initiating the creation of an instance of the replacement class; retrieving the configuration data for the replacement class; and creating an instance of the replacement class according to the retrieved configuration data for the replacement class (col. 8, lines 1-61 and col. 13, lines 28-61; col. 1, lines 60-67, col. 2, lines 1-49 and col. 7, lines 10-67; col. 2, lines 3-18 and col. 7, lines 10-64; col. 7, lines 10-67, col. 9, lines 31-67 and col. 10, lines 1-26).

Bale does not explicitly indicate, “a corresponding key, a selected processing context; generating a key that includes information relating to the current processing context.”

However, Kumar discloses the context and key as claimed (col. 7, lines 4-18, col. 14, lines 28-42 and col. 19, lines 22-34; abstract and col. 5, lines 10-32).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Bale with the teachings of Kumar so as to have an apparatus for providing context-based class replacement in an object-oriented system database because the combination would provide the system having the features in object-oriented computing environment for the replacement of

classes at any location in the hierarchy while preserving the inheritance of each class in the hierarchy (Bale – col. 2, lines 3-49) in the object-oriented programming framework environment.

With respect to claim 13, Bale discloses an object oriented class replacement mechanism that generates an instance of a selected class and to access an appropriate entry in class configuration data stored external to the class; and signal bearing media bearing the object oriented class replacement mechanism (col. 1, lines 60-67, col. 2, lines 1-49 and col. 7, lines 10-67; col. 8, lines 1-61 and col. 13, lines 28-61; col. 6, lines 5-26, col. 7, lines 10-67 and col. 8, lines 1-61).

Bale does not explicitly indicate, “a key that includes information relating to a selected processing context; and communication media.”

However, Kumar discloses the context, key and communication media as claimed (col. 7, lines 4-18, col. 14, lines 28-42 and col. 19, lines 22-34; abstract and col. 5, lines 10-32; col. 11, lines 28-67 and col. 12, lines 1-54).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Bale with the teachings of Kumar so as to have an apparatus for providing context-based class replacement in an object-oriented system database because the combination would provide the system having the features in object-oriented computing environment for the replacement of classes at any location in the hierarchy while preserving the inheritance of each class in the hierarchy (Bale – col. 2, lines 3-49) in the object-oriented programming framework environment.

With respect to claims 14-15, Bale discloses a program product as discussed in claim 13.

Bale does not explicitly indicate, "wherein said signal bearing media comprises recordable media; wherein said signal bearing media comprises transmission media."

However, Kumar discloses communication media as claimed (col. 11, lines 28-67 and col. 12, lines 1-54).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Bale with the teachings of Kumar so as to have an apparatus for providing context-based class replacement in an object-oriented system database because the combination would provide the system having the features in object-oriented computing environment for the replacement of classes at any location in the hierarchy while preserving the inheritance of each class in the hierarchy (Bale – col. 2, lines 3-49) in the object-oriented programming framework environment.

Claims 16-17 are essentially the same as claims 2-3 except that it is directed to a program product rather than an apparatus (abstract, col. 5, lines 10-32; col. 7, lines 54-57, col. 14, lines 28-42, and col. 19, lines 10-67), and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claims 2-3 hereinabove.

Claim 18 is essentially the same as claim 4 except that it is directed to a program product rather than an apparatus (col. 8, lines 1-61 and col. 13, lines 28-61; col. 7, lines 10-67 and col. 8, lines 1-61), and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 4 hereinabove.

Claim 19 is essentially the same as claim 5 except that it is directed to a program product rather than an apparatus (col. 7, lines 4-18, col. 14, lines 28-42 and col. 19, lines 22-34), and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 5 hereinabove.

Contact Information

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Anh Ly whose telephone number is (703) 306-4527 or via E-Mail: ANH.LY@USPTO.GOV. The examiner can be reached on Monday - Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful, see the examiner's supervisor, Kim Vu, can be reached on (703) 305-4393.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 746-7238 (after Final Communication)

or:

(703) 746-7239 (for formal communications intended for entry)

or:


(703) 746-7240 (for informal or draft communications, or Customer Service Center, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Art Unit: 2172

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Fourth Floor (receptionist).

Inquiries of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

AL 


KIM VU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

Sep. 10th, 2002.